GeSI ENABLING DIGITAL SUSTAINABILITY

AI for Environmental Sustainability

Virtual meeting

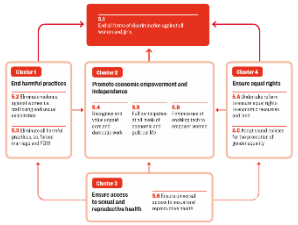
20 10 2021

“Digital with Purpose” seeks to understand the impact Digital technologies have on the SDGs; and catalyse a greater contribution

SDGs in numbers

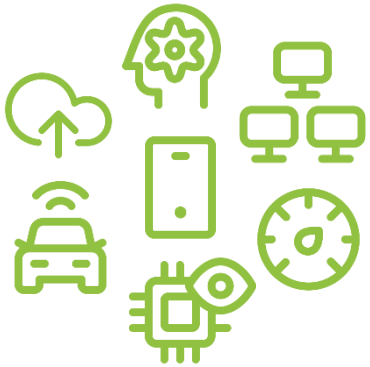
169 targets across 17 SDGs

3 SDG clusters



67 target clusters, 103 targets considered high impact

Tech in numbers



7 digital technologies

4 impact functions

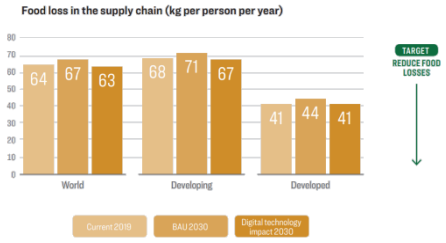
500+ use cases

Impact assessment

Qualitative assessment

Cluster > target > use case > function

Quantitative assessment



21 targets, plus associated emissions abated for 8 of these targets

ICT sector footprint

Estimates to 2030 for:

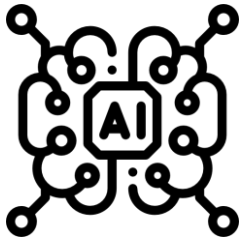
- *GVA*
- *R&D spend*
- *Employment*

- *E-waste*
- *GHG emissions*

Compared to SDG impact

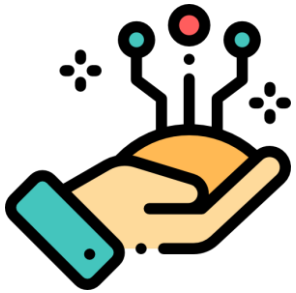
Technology & AI: Catalysts for Sustainable Development

Potentials of AI



AI is one of the seven digital technologies that will have a critical influence on the world.

Analysis of the SDG targets and their indicators shows that the expected deployment of existing digital technologies will, on average, help **accelerate progress by 22% and mitigate downward trends by 23%**.



GeSI ENABLING DIGITAL SUSTAINABILITY

Source: Digital with Purpose Report

Technology & AI: Catalysts for Sustainable Development

The Framework

We have developed a mechanism for scoring companies to encourage corporate commitment to the amplification and acceleration of SDG impact through digital technology. The Digital with Purpose framework comprises of three main component parts. Participants will receive an overall Digital with Purpose performance score, and access to like-minded organisations for opportunities to collaborate to overcome shared barriers and drive collective progress against the SDGs.

Purpose

Metrics covering a company's commitment to becoming a purpose-led business; connecting its core business model to a desired impact on the SDGs, working to maximise its positive contribution and minimise its negative externalities.

Digitally Enabled Solutions

Metrics framed by the SDGs, reflecting how a company contributes innovative digital solutions through its products, services, and core business practices, to improve the sustainability of our society and our planet.

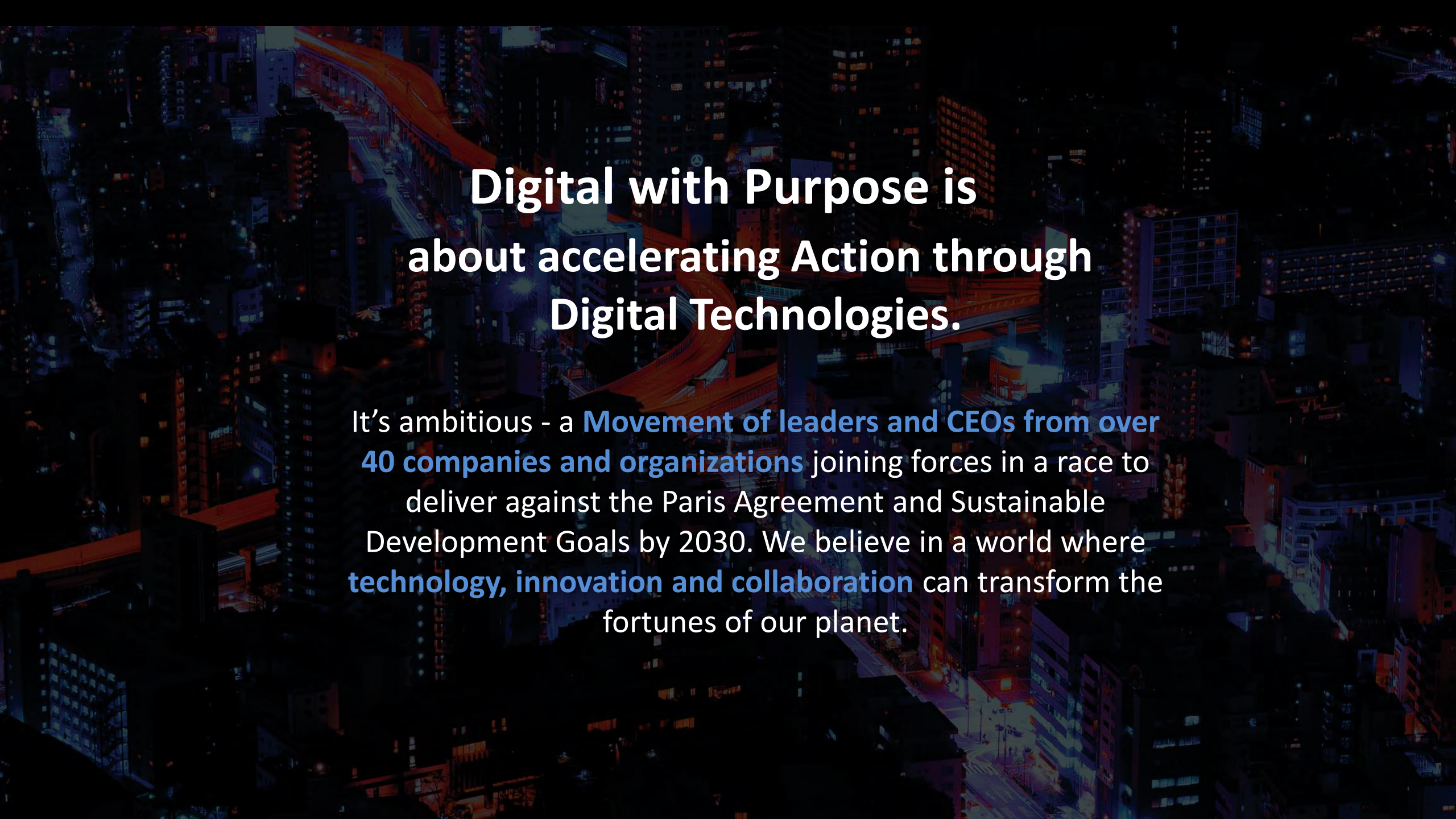
Responsible Business

Metrics covering: Climate Change; Digital Trust and Responsibility; Circular Economy; Digital Inclusion; and Supply Chain. The metrics reflect how the business acts in a responsible manner concerning: its own operations; its interactions with its suppliers; and the design, delivery, and end of life management of its products and services.

To **maximise** the potential of digital technologies and to **diminish** the downsides, there needs to be a **common purpose** both within the ICT sector and more widely throughout partner sectors.

RE-COMMIT TO THE 2030 AGENDA	TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE	EMBRACE PRINCIPLES OF TRANSPARENCY & COLLABORATION	HARNESS THE POWER OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

DIGITAL WITH PURPOSE



Digital with Purpose is about accelerating Action through Digital Technologies.

It’s ambitious - a **Movement of leaders and CEOs from over 40 companies and organizations** joining forces in a race to deliver against the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We believe in a world where **technology, innovation and collaboration** can transform the fortunes of our planet.

Standardisation and accountability

are key to ensure maximum impact and deliver on ambitious promises.

Our framework of measures monitors performance in delivering digital solutions to societal and environmental challenges and minimising the negative impacts arising from the deployment of digital products and services.

Digital Technology Providers

- Component manufacture & design
- Device manufacture, branding and design
- Networks and data centres (cloud)
- Software and specific application providers

Digital Technology Users

Organisations aside from the technology sector that make extensive use of digital solutions.

Size

- Large, often multi-national
- SME

- So far the framework has been designed to be used by large Digital Technology Providers.
- Work on its application to SMEs is underway and a meeting of DwP SMEs will be convened in September.
- Metrics for Digital Technology Users to be started later in the year.

Technology & AI: Catalysts for Sustainable Development

The role of public-private collaborations

DIGITAL WITH PURPOSE

Collaborating with public institutions and governments is crucial to allow for educated and impactful policies able to implement innovative solutions.

DIGITALDAY2021

European Green Digital Coalition

GeSI ENABLING DIGITAL SUSTAINABILITY

GOVERNO DE PORTUGAL

Key Messages

Urgent intervention is required

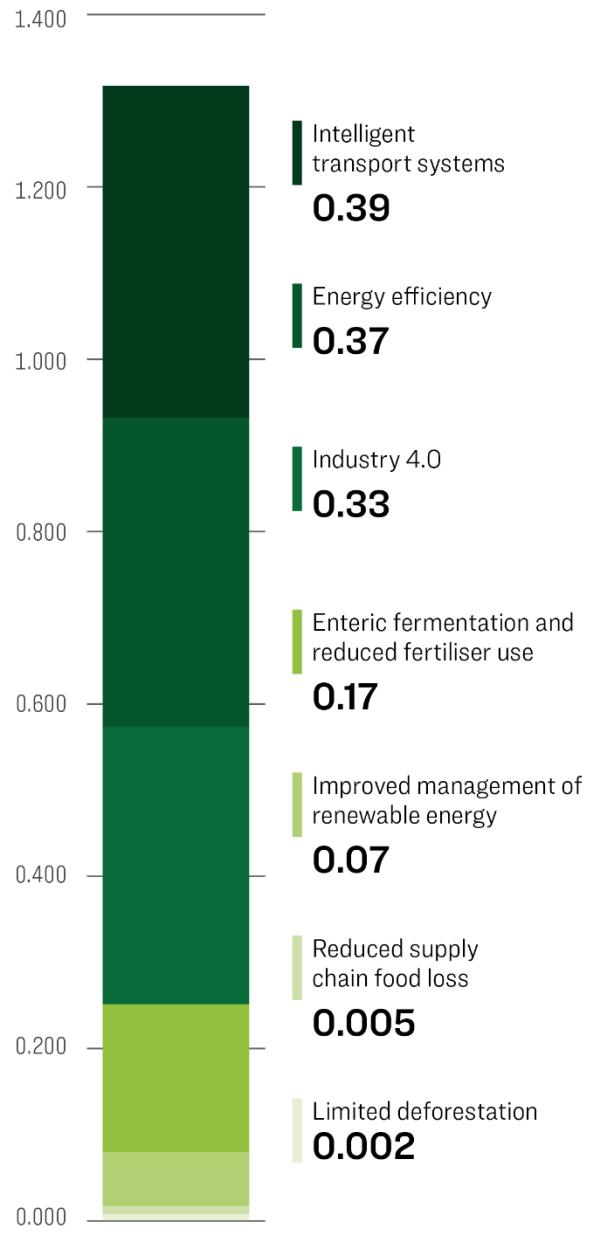
- Our biosphere is under threat from rising carbon emissions
- Our society sees persistent inequality and lack of access to basic services
- Our economy continues to drive unsustainable consumption
- > 30% of sampled indicators actually deteriorating, all could be undermined by climate change

Digital technologies are having a powerful impact

- Powerful impact on 103 targets through the four identified impact functions
- Deployment of existing technologies will, on average, accelerate progress by 22% and mitigate downwards trends by 23%
- Extensive economic, social and environmental contribution of the sector itself

Digital technologies can and need to contribute more

- Need is self evident
- Negative externalities need better understanding and mitigation
- Upside emissions scenario with significant collaboration shows the potential
- Major obstacles need unlocking e.g. impact measurement
- $3 trillion likely to be spent on R&D within the ICT sector from now until 2030



Global Enabling Sustainability Initiative

Rond-Point Schuman 6

1040 Brussels, Belgium

E-mail: info@gesi.org

www.gesi.org